

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 021184

E.O. 11652, GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. ITALY: MORO PRESSES AHEAD

WITH A POSITIVE RESPONSE FROM THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS AND
LACK OF FIRM OPPOSITION FROM THE REPUBLICANS, MORO IS
PRESSING AHEAD WITH ATTEMPTS TO FORM A ONE-PARTY CHRISTIAN
DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT.

--DE MARTINO REPORTEDLY HAS ASSURED MORO THAT THE
SOCIALISTS WOULD GIVE "BENEVOLENT ATTENTION" IN
PARLIAMENT TO A DC PROGRAM AIMED AT AVOIDING EARLY
ELECTIONS.

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--MORO IS REPORTEDLY HARD AT WORK ON EMERGENCY ECONOMIC PROPOSALS.

EMBASSY COMMENT: A ONE-PARTY GOVERNMENT WOULD PROBABLY BE AN INTERIM SOLUTION UNTIL THE PARTY CONGRESSES END, AFTER WHICH AN ATTEMPT COULD BE MADE TO PUT TOGETHER A CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC-SOCIALIST COALITION. ALSO, A ONE-PARTY GOVERNMENT IS LIKELY TO BE WEAK AND INEFFECTUAL,

WITH THE DC FACING STRONG CRITICISM FOR A WORSENING POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SITUATION. (CONFIDENTIAL)
ROME 1364, 1/27.

2. COD WAR: UK FACES DILEMMA

AS PRIME MINISTERS WILSON AND HALLGRIMSSON MET FOR THE THIRD TIME JANUARY 27, THE BRITISH PRESS SPECULATED THAT ICELAND IS NOW SEEKING A MAXIMUM BRITISH CATCH OF 45,000 TONS, WHILE THE BRITISH TRAWLER ASSOCIATION CONTINUES TO ARGUE THAT ANY AGREEMENT BELOW 80,000 TONS WOULD SEVERELY HARM THE UK FISHING INDUSTRY. THE BRITISH, THEREFORE, ARE FACED WITH TWO EQUALLY UNPLEASANT ALTERNATIVES:

--CAVE IN TO ICELAND'S DEMANDS AND TRY TO MINIMIZE THE DOMESTIC POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES;
OR

--REFUSE TO CAPITULATE, SEND THE FRIGATES BACK INTO THE DISPUTED WATERS, AND ACCEPT A BREAK IN RELATIONS AND FURTHER DAMAGE TO NATO. (CONFIDENTIAL) LONDON
1302, 1/27.

3. PRESSURE MOUNTS FOR PORTUGUESE RECOGNITION OF MPLA

EMBASSY LISBON REPORTS THAT DISCUSSION OF ANGOLA WAS POSTPONED IN THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD JANUARY 26-27, PENDING THE RETURN OF FOREIGN MINISTER ANTUNES FROM BELGIUM. THE POSTPONEMENT IS SIGNIFICANT BECAUSE:

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--PRESSURE IS INCREASING FOR PORTUGUESE RECOGNITION OF THE MPLA AS THE ANTI-MPLA FORCES DETERIORATE AND INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT FOR THE MPLA INCREASES.

--ANTUNES HAS FAVORED MPLA RECOGNITION SINCE INDEPENDENCE, AND HE NOW HAS INCREASING EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT HIS POSITION.

EMBASSY COMMENT: AS ANTUNES HIMSELF ADMITS, THE ISSUE
WILL BE HARD FOUGHT. THE DEMOCRATIC PARTIES AND MOST OF
THE 300,000 RETURNEES FROM ANGOLA ARE FIRMLY AGAINST
RECOGNITION. (CONFIDENTIAL) LISBON 569, 1/27. KISSINGER

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